

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 03227 281213Z

46

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-20 NSC-07

PRS-01 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 LS-01 DRC-01 RSC-01

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O 281151Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5625

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 3227

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, US

SUBJ: BOURGUIBA VISIT

REF: STATE 105753, TUNIS 3199

1. MOFA CHIEF OF CABINET AHMED GHEZAL TOLD CHARGE MORNING MAY 28 THAT FONMIN CHATTI "HAD NO PROBLEM" WITH LANGUAGE PARA 2 STATE REFTEL.

2. SHORTLY AFTER CONVERSATION, HOWEVER, MONCEF OUNAIES, CHIEF AMERICAN DIVISION MOFA, TELEPHONED TO SAY THAT HE DID HAVE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT LANGUAGE THAT TUNISIANS WOULD LIKE TO USE AS FOLLOWS:

"ETANT DONNE L'IMPOSSIBILITE POUR LES GOUVERNEMENTS TUNISIEN ET AMERICAIN DE CONVENIR D'UNE DATE POUR LA VISIT DU PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA A WASHINGTON QUI SE SITUERAIT FIN MAI OU DEBUT JUIN, ILS ONT DECIDE D'UN COMMUN ACCORD DE REPORTER CETTE VISITE A UNE DATE ULTERIEURE."

WE TRANSLATE ABOVE AS FOLLOWS: "IN VIEW OF THE INABILITY (IMPOSSIBILITY) OF THE TUNISIAN AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS TO AGREE ON A DATE FOR THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA TO WASHINGTON THAT WOULD
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PAGE 02 TUNIS 03227 281213Z

HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT THE END OF MAY OR THE BEGINNING

OF JUNE, THEY HAVE AGREED TO POSTPONE THIS VISIT TO
A LATER DATE."

3. BOTH GHEZAL AND OUNAIRES AGAIN CONFIRMED THAT
GOT INTENDED USE LANGUAGE ONLY ON IF-ASKED BASIS.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S REACTION SOONEST.
DETAILS BOURGUIBA'S TRIP TO CHINA VIA IRAN AND
PAKISTAN MAY BE RELEASED BY GOT AT ANY TIME AND IT
WILL THEN BECOME OBVIOUS THAT TRIP TO U.S. IS NOT
PART OF BOURGUIBA'S IMMEDIATE TRAVEL PLANS. OUNAIES
EXPRESSED HOPE THAT LANGUAGE USED BY BOTH GOT AND
USG IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS WOULD BE SAME.
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